



Maryland Smart Energy Communities

Info Session on the MD-SEC Program

November 2013 – Existing Communities

Hosted by the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center and the Maryland Energy Administration



Important Dates and Information

- Applications due December 19, 2013
 - Submit via email to: MSEC.MEA@maryland.gov
- Reference the Frequently Asked Questions at <http://www.energy.maryland.gov/Govt/smartenergycommunities/>
- Contact for questions:
 - Sean Williamson at 301-405-8259 or E: srw46@umd.edu
 - Lauren Urbanek at 410-260-7522 or E: lauren.urbanek@maryland.gov



Existing Community – Funding Track

■ Objectives:

- Provide both technical and financial assistance to communities as they strive to achieve goals.
- Establish MSEC communities as energy leaders that serve as role models for residents and businesses.
- Build a network that facilitates peer-to-peer exchange among participating communities.
- Encourage communities to innovate via partnerships, policy, technology, or financing.
- Encourage communities to set and exceed increasingly ambitious energy goals.



Eligibility

- ▣ Any community currently in good standing with the MSEC program
 - ▣ First round deliverables should be complete or on the way.
 - ▣ If you are really concerned about how deliverables will impact your application, let us know and we can talk.



Application Review

- MEA will evaluate applications based on:
 - Additional priority will be given to communities that commit to adopting a third policy.
 - Progress made towards MSEC goals including demonstration of effort and needed assistance.
 - Past experience and performance with MEA.
 - Application completeness.
- Project criteria:
 - How feasible is the energy project and how much detail and thought has been put into the proposed project.
 - The anticipated impact of the project on energy consumption/generation as well as community goals.
 - How innovative is the project and is there potential for deploying the project in other Maryland communities.



Sample Project Ideas

- Any project proposed as part of your energy action plans:
 - Energy efficiency measures
 - E.g., install new HVAC
 - Renewable energy installation
 - E.g., install a community wind turbine
 - Transportation
 - E.g., install electric vehicle charging stations
- Projects that benefit your community as a whole
 - E.g., energy efficiency outreach and education with residents
 - *Note – These projects will not directly impact MSEC goals*



Timeline

- ▣ Applications – **Due December 19, 2013**
 - ▣ MEA Review Process
- ▣ Approval and Implementation Agreements (Jan/Feb)
- ▣ Funds may be accessed as early as Spring 2014, but projects could be subject to further approval and/or discussion with MEA/EFC.
- ▣ Energy projects must be complete and invoiced by June 2015.



Technical Assistance



- The Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland will continue working with communities to:
 - Answer questions and assist local governments with the application process.
 - Assist in project planning as appropriate.
 - Facilitate opportunities to share best practices and lessons learned among communities.
 - Collect and organize data related to energy tracking.



Grant Availability

- Available funding - \$4 million to be split between new and existing communities for energy efficiency projects (\$3 million) and transportation/renewable energy projects (\$1 million).
- Grant amounts will be determined by a formula that factors in a community's population size and the number of applicants.
 - We expect to award money to all existing MSEC communities.
 - We expect to cover a portion of proposed projects, but may not be able to cover 100 percent of project costs.
 - Cost sharing is encouraged, but not necessary.
 - We anticipate grant amounts will be comparable to the first round.
- Funds are primarily meant to be spent on implementing energy-related projects (which must be approved by MEA).
 - However, communities will be allowed to recover 30% of their grant funding to recover administrative and other non-project costs related to completing deliverables (e.g., energy audits).



Q and A



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